



Happy Tails

The Newsletter of HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic

NOVEMBER, 2011

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Versailles, KY 40383

(859) 873-HOPE

A 501(c)(3) charity



Total surgeries from 25 counties since opening 9/28/2010

HOPE: Helping OverPopulation End

Our mission is to end overpopulation and unnecessary euthanasia of companion animals through high quality, low cost spay/neuter, education, & community involvement.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HOPE!

On September 27, we celebrated our first birthday at HOPE! Through the tireless efforts of our volunteers, board members, and veterinary staff, we performed 1292 surgeries in our first year of service.



Taking a moment to celebrate a year's worth of hard work are Liese Coleman, Terry Stahler, Carolyn Short, Mindy Fiala, and DeeDee Lloyd. We'd like to thank everyone who has helped us make it to one year. Here's to many more!

The Wild Cat Fund: Making a Difference Across County Lines

Are you a Wildcat fan? How about a Wild Cat fan? Though you may not be aware of it, wild cats, also known as ferals or free roaming cats, live all around you. They often have caretakers who diligently provide food and water, which is commendable, but it's just not enough. The exponential growth of unaltered cats is very real. It is suggested that a pair of breeding cats and their offspring, which can have two or more litters a year, can theoretically produce 420,000 kittens over a seven year period. Just think if someone had thought to spay that first female cat.

The single most effective solution to the abundance of feral cats is the Trap Neuter Return program, or TNR. Altering ferals is the most successful method of stabilizing and maintaining healthy feral colonies while providing the best life for the animals themselves. The goal of all Trap Neuter Return programs is to stabilize and eventually eliminate the colony through attrition. That old saying, "a stitch in time saves nine" is quite literally true. Since 2004, over 2000 feral cats living in Woodford County have been spayed, neutered and returned to their homes. The results of these quarterly Kitty Cat Roundups, as we affectionately call them, have been astounding. For this reason, we feel compelled to reach out across the county borders and offer a low cost TNR program to our neighboring counties. The HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic has recently launched our Wild Cat Fund. 100% of the proceeds will be used to spay and neuter feral cats in the Central Kentucky area.

If you are a Wild Cat fan, please consider making a donation to our Wild Cat Fund by indicating "Wild Cat Fund" in the memo line of your check.



Boxers Abound at HOPE



Boxer puppies at HOPE

This fall, HOPE has been spaying and neutering a whopping number of adorable boxers! Amy Heiden is a foster mom and volunteer for Central Kentucky Boxer Rescue. She found HOPE online while researching spay/neuter options for the Shangri-La cat colony (see article on page 3). Now, she and CKBR bring many of their rescues to HOPE to be spayed and neutered, and we sure are glad they do!

“I have never encountered anyplace like HOPE,” says Amy. “From the moment you walk in to the moment you leave, everything is top-notch. The low fee is not an indication of the level of service you get. You know the staff and volunteers love what they’re doing because they treat the animals like their own forever pets. It’s not clinical, it’s personal.”

Perhaps the path that led Amy to HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic was destined to save one particular dog. A HOPE client who brought in a cat mentioned that she had just acquired a boxer that was in bad shape. She asked if we knew of any place that could help her get treatment for this dog. We asked the client if we could give her name and phone number to Amy. She agreed as well as agreeing to surrender the boxer as long as the dog got help. Amy picked up the boxer that night. She didn’t think the dog would survive—she could barely breathe and had almost no hair. She had bronchitis, mange, pneumonia, and ear mites. Amy named the boxer Hope. Now, because Central Kentucky Boxer Rescue put so much time, care, and love into bringing Hope back to good health, she is a sweet-tempered, wiggly pet waiting to be adopted. However, if Amy hadn’t got involved with the Shangri-La cat colony and searched the internet for spay/neuter options, Hope’s future could have been very different. If you would like to learn more about Hope and other boxers available for adoption, go to www.CKBR.org.

Morehead cats make the trip to HOPE: A caregiver’s response

Dear HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic,

I am writing to express our gratitude for the large role HOPE Clinic played in our recent catch and release of stray/feral cats from two trailer parks in Morehead, Kentucky.

While visiting the Morehead area on business years ago, I first encountered these cats during a random stop at a fast food restaurant adjoining that trailer park. From the time I first learned of those cats in Morehead, and their kindhearted caregivers, I vowed that I would somehow find a way to provide them with quality spaying and neutering, despite living hours away in Louisville.

I can never thank HOPE Clinic enough for making that goal a reality. My gratitude is echoed by the other volunteers that participated in the catch and release of those Morehead cats. We unanimously agreed that we truly have never encountered a more caring, responsive, supportive, organized, and professional effort than we found at your clinic. Once we had the cats at your clinic, the warmth and kindness of the clinic volunteers touched our hearts. We are still overwhelmed by the attention and tender care they provided to improve the overall quality of life among the cats by addressing general health conditions that might otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Perhaps one of our catch and release volunteers summed it up best when she said that the Morehead effort was one of the most inspiring events of her life. I know you recall the suffering kitten we brought to you with eyes that had somehow been traumatized. It appeared likely that her vision was lost. Even though that kitten was too young for spay, the actions of your volunteers saved her beautiful eyes, and likely her life. Sometimes witnessing the generally sad circumstances of the cat colonies, coupled with the normal stresses and frustrations of the catch and release effort, can take all joy out of the event. That is perhaps what sets your group apart the most... the feeling of joy and camaraderie your members and volunteers brought to every aspect of the entire event. Yes, it truly was one of the most inspiring few days of my life as well.

On behalf of the volunteers in Morehead, it was truly an honor to work with you all at HOPE Clinic. We look forward to working with you again in the future. The need for catch and release and spay/neuter seems overwhelming, but somehow I get the feeling you are up for the challenge! It is so comforting to know that desperately needed groups like yours are out there!

We unanimously agreed that we truly have never encountered a more caring, responsive, supportive, organized, and professional effort than we found at your clinic.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Leichty



Elizabeth in her own words...

Kentucky has always been my home so I understand the importance of low cost options for pet owners.

I went to college at Morehead State University where I received an Associate Degree in Veterinary Technology and a Bachelor Degree in Science and Technology.

After working in private practice I met Dr. Ubelhor who inspired me to give back. The last few years I have been helping her do TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) at the Scott County Humane

MEET OUR VET TECH:

ELIZABETH ZAMBRANO



Society and Home at Last (now called Spay Our Strays), and low cost spay/neuters in Rockcastle County (my hometown), McCreary County, and the Knox-Whitley Animal Shelter. I am also very happy to be working with Dr. Fuller and being a part of HOPE.

I have been blessed with a wonderful husband, Rafael, and an amazing 3 year old, Ellen.

Thanks to my supportive family I am able to devote my time to my true passion-- reduction of strays and ferals through low cost spaying and neutering.

Stray Cats Find Paradise at the Shangri-La Cat Colony

Written by Yvonne Hackworth

Pretty Girl, Pretty Boy and Precious are the names we gave to those first three kitties we spotted 18 months ago. They are still faithfully with us. We were driving through a parking lot and immediately knew we wanted to feed them. Such a naive thought, but we weren't feral cat savvy at the time! We are Yvonne Hackworth and Jeanette Reynolds. By the second night, we knew we were hooked and we have never missed a single night since - through rain, sleet, snow and ice. We have learned at least two things: If you feed feral cats and if you name feral cats, they are yours forever (at least, that's the way we feel about it). There's no turning back for us.

Enter Jeanie Bressler. One night we met Jeanie's husband, Woody, and realized that we weren't the only people feeding these cats! To say Jeanie has had experience is a gross understatement. She has fed, provided medical care, provided shelter and had hundreds of cats spayed and neutered. She began to educate us about the rewards and pitfalls of our new project. We learned to be cautious, consistent and alert to the traits of feral cats. She presently feeds six colonies of cats once or twice a day every day.

How did our number grow from three cats to twenty? Well, first of all the news spread. Cats came from who knows where and said, "Let's eat!" What started as three cans of cat food has grown to twenty cans of food each night and a large bag of dry food every 3-4 nights. And then there are the kittens. This is where the education gets serious. We had been talking about spaying and neutering since the summer before. Jeanie had told us of traps and post-operative care and expense and then Pretty Girl presented us with four darling kittens. We could see the handwriting on the wall. They had to be spayed or neutered. There were 15-18 by now. What to do???

Enter Amy! Driving through the parking lot she had seen four of the cats and had stopped to inquire at an office nearby. The office gave Amy our phone number and she called immediately. She explained about wanting to have the cats spayed and neutered. Amy did some research online and found HOPE Clinic.

HOPE set us up with traps and instructions, and for a week Jeanie and I worked to get the cats used to the traps by placing food in and around them. The night before our appointment, Jeanie and I camped out on lawn chairs and listened for the snap of the traps. We caught 15 cats, 2 raccoons and 1 opossum. We freed the latter. Morning brought new challenges. Because of the intense heat and road noise we decided that the trailer we planned on using was not a suitable means of transportation for our cats. So we rented a truck--a BIG truck. Picture this: Jeanie driving and me sitting in back on the floor of the big truck singing all the way to Versailles to keep our kitties calm. It worked for everyone except Mr. Friendly. He hollered all the way.

We finally arrived at HOPE. Everyone helped us unload all of our precious cats. Even though we had some anxiety, we knew our "babies" were in good hands. All of the staff and volunteers were super kind and helpful. We were very impressed. Reluctantly, we said good-bye. Upon pickup, we learned that everything went extremely well. Our convoy headed back to Lexington without a hitch. What an adventure! We will never forget it.

The cat colony and the people who care about them are eternally grateful to HOPE and the wonderful people there who care so much for all animals and who went out of their way to help. We are very excited about the expansion into neighboring counties which helps with population control.

Here's a big thank you from the cats currently at our colony called Shangri-La!

Pretty Girl, Pretty Boy, Precious, BB, Spindle, PK, Itsy, Pandy, Big Tom, Hop-a-Long, Goldie, Rock, Coony, Marble, Stripe, Midnight, Blackie, Tux, Mr. Friendly, and the people who care for them.



Feral cat traps lined up inside a rental truck



Happy Tails HOPE Spay Neuter Clinic

Fee Schedule



Dog spay \$60.00
 Dog neuter \$50.00

Cat spay or neuter \$30.00

Feral cat package \$35.00

Contact us today to schedule your appointment!

(859) 873-HOPE

hopespayneuterclinic@gmail.com

www.hopespayneuter.org

Donation Opportunities

CELEBRATE THE LIFE of a beloved pet or person. Both you and your honoree will be listed in our newsletter and your honoree will receive a card noting your donation to help prevent pet overpopulation.

MEMORIAL GIFTS Make a donation in the memory of a special person or pet. Your memorial will be listed in our newsletter and a card noting your donation will be sent to either a designated individual or family at your request.

SPONSOR A TNR DAY For \$900 a TNR day will be named in either your honor or a designee's honor. With as many as 50 feral cats spayed or neutered, your sponsored day will take a big bite out of pet homelessness. Your name or that of your designee will also be listed in our newsletter.

We thank you for any and all donations and are dedicated to involving as many of our friends and supporters as possible in our fundraising efforts. We welcome your feedback & ideas for a fundraiser.

If we have forgotten to mention your celebration or memorial gift, we are sorry. Please let us know so we can be sure to include it in our next newsletter.

HOPE'S WISH LIST

Please consider keeping HOPE in mind while you're out doing your holiday shopping. Even small gifts mean a lot to us!

- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Bleach
- Q-tips
- Pee pads
- Copy paper
- Distilled water
- Stamps
- Pet carriers

We appreciate your gifts of time as well!

Volunteers

To help with our expanded TNR program

Lunch for our volunteers

Every Tuesday, our volunteers work very hard all day long caring for the dogs and cats entrusted to us for the day. The pets are monitored continuously the entire time they are at the clinic. This commitment makes it difficult, if not impossible, to leave the clinic for lunch. A special request on our wish list is for volunteers to provide a simple meal once or twice a year for 15 people.

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

In honor of Frank Sinatra by Kelly & Phillip Barker

In honor of Karen Buege by Bill Buege



**A huge thank you to
 ADDIES RESTAURANT,
 LINDA PARKER &
 MILLIE THE CAT**
 for generously providing lunch for our
 volunteers the 2nd Tuesday
 of the month.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Tiger Stover by

Animal House Pet Hotel

In memory of Angel by

Animal House Pet Hotel

In memory of Scully by

Ron & Mindy Fiala

DeeDee Lloyd

Buffalo Trace Veterinary Services

In memory of Prince, Sis &

Mozart by

Paul & Terry Stahler

Karen Buege

Libby Welker

Ron & Mindy Fiala

Cricket Gibson

Carolyn Short

In memory of Linda Witman by

Libby Welker

In memory of Bear by

Carolyn Short

**PREVENT A LITTER,
 FIX YOUR CRITTER**

When you've finished with this newsletter please consider passing it on to another animal lover.